Import of Hazardous Items

12. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will' the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that seconds and defective steel items and tin plates which are banned for sale in the Western Countries are being imported into the country endangering the health of the children;

(b) if so, the countries from where these items are being imported and by whom, along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the import of hazardous items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per Export Import Policy, import of certain types of Hazardous Waste into the country is restricted. Prime as well as seconds and defective steel items and tin plates are classified under the same Exim Code in the Chapter 72 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 1997—2002, and their import is permitted. As per information available for some European countries, these items are not banned for sale as such but are not allowed to be used for food packaging. Use of tin plates for packaging food products in India is regulated through various other laws i.e. Edible Oil Packaging Regulation Order 1998, Essential Commodity Act and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(b) As per ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 1997—2002, both prime as well as seconds and defectives of various steel items are classified under the same Exim Code. Since the import data is collected according to the specific Exim Code assigned to a particular item, it is not possible to provide separate import figures for any type of seconds and defective steel items and tin plates.

(c) Import of certain types of hazardous waste is already restricted in the Export-Import Policy 1997—2002

Export of Agricultural Produce

13. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for export of agricultural produce during 1997-98 and 1998-99;